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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AND THE HAWAII AGRICULTURE RESEARCH CENTER TO REFRAIN FROM DEVELOPING, TESTING, PROPAGATING, CULTIVATING, RAISING, OR GROWING GENETICALLY MODIFIED TRADITIONAL HAWAIIAN TARO VARIETIES IN THE STATE OR CONDUCTING ANY TYPE OF RESEARCH THAT WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACT TRADITIONAL HAWAIIAN TARO VARIETIES.

1 WHEREAS, kalo (*colocasia esculenta*), the Hawaiian word for  
2 taro, is a culturally significant plant to the kanaka maoli,  
3 Hawaii's indigenous peoples; and  
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5 WHEREAS, kalo provides the kanaka maoli's life-giving  
6 sustenance, poi; and  
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8 WHEREAS, over three hundred kalo varieties may have existed  
9 at the time of the arrival of European explorers; and  
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11 WHEREAS, today there are approximately seventy varieties of  
12 taro, and, of these, the majority are unique to the Hawaiian  
13 islands due to the horticultural skills of native Hawaiian  
14 farmers; and  
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16 WHEREAS, the important cultural relationship between kalo  
17 and the kanaka maoli continues today in the cultivation of kalo  
18 and ohana, the Hawaiian word for family; and  
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20 WHEREAS, kalo expresses the spiritual and physical well-  
21 being of not only the kanaka maoli and their heritage, but also  
22 symbolizes the environmental, social, and cultural values  
23 important to the State; now, therefore,  
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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the  
27 House of Representatives concurring, that the College of  
28 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of



1 Hawaii and the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center are requested  
2 to refrain from developing, testing, propagating, cultivating,  
3 raising, or growing genetically modified traditional Hawaiian  
4 taro varieties in the State or conducting any type of research  
5 that would significantly impact traditional Hawaiian taro  
6 varieties; and  
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Concurrent Resolution does  
9 not include a request to refrain from developing, testing,  
10 propagating, cultivating, raising, or growing genetically  
11 modified taro of the non-Hawaiian variety, including Chinese  
12 taro, in the State; provided that such activities are conducted  
13 at an isolated and secure site or laboratory to ensure the  
14 prevention of cross-pollination with traditional Hawaiian taro  
15 varieties; and  
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ongoing discussions between the  
18 College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources and the  
19 Native Hawaiian community regarding the propriety of research or  
20 genetic modification of traditional Hawaiian taro varieties  
21 continue to occur; and  
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the College of Tropical  
24 Agriculture and Human Resources is requested to submit a report  
25 to the Legislature, including information regarding discussions  
26 with the Native Hawaiian community, no later than twenty days  
27 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2008; and  
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board  
31 of Agriculture, the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture  
32 and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii, and the  
33 Director of the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center.

